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present volume does not relate to the period which is nominally covered. In the first eleven chapters one-third of the dates which are given at the top of the pages are antecedent to that period. And the chronological leapings to and fro are very hard to follow. For example, the dates at the top of pages 27-31 run as follows: 1824, 1796, 1815, 1814. Nor is this an extreme instance.

The three remaining chapters, XLIII, XLIV and XLV, on "Socialistic and Labor Reforms," "State of the Country from 1825 to 1829" and "The Negro Problem," are the best in the book. As the titles indicate, they approach more nearly to what is the real subject of Professor McMaster's work—that is, the history of the people of the United States. They describe the conditions of the times, how the people lived and what they were interested in. We may observe, however, the same faults that every critic of our author has noted since the publication of his first volume. The most heterogeneous subjects are treated in each chapter with lightning-like transitions, that irresistibly suggest "The Walrus and the Carpenter":

The time has come, the Walrus said,
To talk of many things,
Of shoes — and ships — and sealing wax —
Of cabbages — and kings.

But if the same faults that were noticeable in the earlier volumes are here, it is only fair to say that the same virtues that the earlier volumes show are also still to be found. In spite of the lack of perspective, the confusion of dates and the multiplicity of subjects, the author's manner is fascinating in its interest; and from his kaleidoscopic pictures the reader obtains an impression of the conditions of the times that few, if any other, historians have been able to give. This is apparently the first object that Professor McMaster has had in view, and in justice to him it must be said that he has succeeded wonderfully well.

MAX FARRAND.

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Bismarck and the Foundation of the German Empire. By JAMES WYCLIFFE HEADLAM. (Heroes of the Nations Series.) New York and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1899.—x, 463 pp.

This volume is commendable from several points of view. It is an excellent account of the subject, as the best English opinion regards it; it is quite accurate; and it is readable. The book is of convenient form; paper and print are fair; and the illustrations are

better than those which so often disfigure the average series book. Throughout there is evidence that the writer has consulted the authorities to which he has referred: the Bismarck-Regesten and Bismarck-Jahrbuch, with the private letters edited by Kohl; Poschinger's collections; Busch's Memoirs; and, above all, the *Gedanken und Erinnerungen* of Bismarck himself. The author is at his best in tracing Bismarck's rise; we have, moreover, nowhere seen a cleverer and better digested account of the Schleswig-Holstein question. The narrative runs on smoothly in describing the founding of the North German Confederation and partially into the period of the empire. Thus far, at least, we feel that the writer proceeds with a firm step and with the ground under his feet, though the account of the Hohenzollern candidature is based on a most untrustworthy source—the memoirs of the King of Roumania. It is not a pleasant picture, moreover, which portrays the conduct of the great chancellor during the war; nor is it altogether just, for due allowance should be made for the superhuman and not-to-be-foreseen difficulties of a victorious nation, when its opponent fell into total disorganization before it. Never before in the history of civilized European warfare were such masses of prisoners demanding humane treatment, never had there been such difficulty on the part of a victor to maintain a constituted authority among the conquered wherewith to discuss terms of peace. Really there is no historic parallel, not even when the allies entered Paris after the Napoleonic wars; for at that time at least there was surviving a powerful tradition of royalty, and in 1870 there was not.

The pages devoted to Bismarck's service in the new empire are very few in number. The account given, though over-condensed, is nevertheless tolerably complete. We could wish that the author in dealing with his readers had recalled the important truth, that there is a virtue in the statesman far higher than that of consistency—namely, that of being true to principle in every set of conditions which confronts him. It was a high-sounding theory, and one that for long was justified, which announced that to secure unity Germany must be Prussianized; it was a noble surrender, in the light of new knowledge, which led Bismarck, throughout his difficult task as chancellor, to Gallicize Germany and Germanize Prussia for the sake of permanence in the institutions under which peoples so widely different as those of Germany were intended to live.

The unhappy circumstances surrounding Bismarck's fall are truly and forcibly outlined. Not too much is said of the prince's conduct

during retirement ; the good taste of history will in time relegate his faults of extreme old age and his peevish feebleness under provocation to kind oblivion. But not, perhaps, until the German emperor, the German people and the Chancellor's own family have made the only reparation in their power for sensibilities wounded by apparent ingratitude and a death embittered by resentment — to wit, a fitting and enduring monument of some kind, to keep always alive in the nation which he made the memory of Bismarck's preëminent services.

WILLIAM M. SLOANE.

Die wirtschaftliche Thätigkeit der Kirche in Deutschland. Von THEO SOMMERLAD. Erster Band. Leipzig, J. J. Weber, 1900. — 366 pp.

Modern scholars recognize that in the mediæval period church history cannot be differentiated from secular history and that the ecclesiastical hierarchy, the only organized state in existence, touching at numberless points the life of the growing nations, was a dominant factor in their development. Herr Sommerlad's book, as he states briefly in the introduction, is soundly based upon a realization of this fact.

This first volume of the work has two introductory chapters. In the first the author gives an account, based chiefly upon Tacitus, of the Germans before their contact with Christianity ; in the second he turns to the economic theories of the early Church Fathers, culminating in "the theoretical foundation of mediæval ecclesiastical socialism by St. Augustine." The remainder of the book, — about one-half, — dealing with the subject proper, consists of a chapter on the work of St. Columba and the Celtic missionaries, and another concerning St. Boniface and the Anglo-Saxon monks in Germany.

The author's introductory chapters lack strength and certainty of touch. The treatment of German institutions is radical. Herr Sommerlad rejects altogether the mark-system theory, as developed by Roth, Waitz and Maurer, and the modified form of the theory advocated by Lamprecht. In common with Hildebrand and Inama-Sternegg, he believes that land was held, not by the community, but by the individual — that society was based, not upon territorial, but upon personal, relations. But he presents no evidence adequate to uphold his theory.

The account of the economic doctrines of the Church Fathers brings out the repressive influence exerted upon economic development by the church, so far as her theories were carried out. It is